

The Gift of Prophecy
I Corinthians 12:10

"God does speak, sometimes one way and sometimes another, even though people may not understand it." Job 33:14

Three ways that God speaks to us:

1. His written word

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

2. His taught word

"This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words." 1 Thessalonians 2:13

3. His spoken word (personal word)

God gives personal words through His Holy Spirit (impressions)

"The Holy Spirit...will be your teacher and will bring to mind all I have said to you." John 14:26

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." John 15:7

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

4. God gives personal words through other people (gift of prophecy)

"Prophecy is a human report of a divine revelation." Wayne Grudem

"The gift of prophecy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed word."

"Two or three prophets should speak and the other should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop." 1 Corinthians 14:29, 30

Revelation could come in the form of pictures, dreams, visions, deep impressions or words.

"God speaks again and again, in dreams and visions at night when deep sleep falls...as people lie on their beds. He opens their ears in times like that, and gives them wisdom and instruction." Job 33:15, 16

What is the purpose of prophecy?

1. To strengthen, encourage and comfort

"But everyone who prophesies speaks to men (and women) for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort." 1 Corinthians 14:3

"Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people, 'I am with you,' declares the Lord." Haggai 1:13

2. To cleanse us from sin

"But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all." 1 Corinthians 14:24, 25

3. To bring a sense of God's reality

"....while everyone is prophesying he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you." I Corinthians 14:24, 25

4. To provide personal guidance

How do I know that the word of prophecy is from God?

1. Confirmation of God in your heart
2. Word of God is always confirmed
3. A sense of peace and joy in your spirit
4. You receive the confirmation of other godly people
5. Talk to your spouse

"Do not put out the Spirit's fire (quench the Spirit), do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything, hold on to the good." 1 Thessalonians 5:19, 20, 21

Four beatitudes for prophesying in Stone Church:

1. Blessed are the humble, for they promote God's name above their own.
2. Blessed are those who love the church, for that is God's instrument to save the world.
3. Blessed are the submissive, for they make pastor's work a joy.

"Obey your leaders so that their work will be joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Let pastors' work be joyful." Hebrews 13:17

4. Blessed are the normal, for they allow guests to not be weirded out.

How can I begin to operate in the gift of prophecy?

1. Desire the Holy Spirit to work through you.

"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy." 1 Corinthians 14:1

2. Trust in the Holy Spirit

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the spirit of God does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6, 7